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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 46

pp. 112 - 410

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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UNTIL

1978

61762

1947

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E 112

3 JAN 1947

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 112/46/31

A W DECKER

PARSON INSTITUTE

DEBATING SOCIETY

Dec 5. 1946

Jan 3. 1947

Views on Palestine, Unbiased.

Various.

Last Paper.

105

References.

(Print.)

61762

(How disposed of.)

1) 5 W. Ton under
198/46/31

Jan 29

2) Ack. Jan 27

8) Ack. Jan 27

(9-10) Ack. W. Ton

Feb. 25

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

GEM 26

5/4/48

Next Paper.

1. (Minutes.)

2. Darnel Hall.

3. Edel Wasserman

4. J.H. Pearson

5. R.H. Gills

6. Edward Lawrence

7. William Heller

8. Malcolm Green

9. Ronald Powers

10. Francis C. Schmidt

(Minutes.)

1) Mr. Deibel is not alone in his hostility.
Gy. send to Washington.

N. American Dept.

Yes, please.

Division please do so.

H.B. 87

Division please also send to Washington

in letter on E 198

H.B. 157

2-8) Please acknowledge nos. 298

N. American Dept. (nos. 3 and 5)

27437 F.O.P.

H.B. 241

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9-10) N. American Rep.

I think book might HB. 27/
be copied to Washington.

3/2

HB. 6
2

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112 / 46 / 31

INDEXED
INDEXED

I am aware that there are many difficulties in the way of my scheme, but I suggest that the difficulties are by no means as great as if we try to partition Palestine in favour of the Jews, and in any case we are only offering to the Jews what is our own, and no Country can quarrel with this proposal, the Jewish Agency would no doubt fight against it, but it appears we have taken too much notice of the Jewish Agency and not enough notice of the displaced Jews, who have no home, and no prospect of any, a great hearted action of this kind would greatly strengthen our hands in the international sphere, and among all honest people everywhere

P.T.O.

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SENT 10 DE

We have to face the prospect of making a final settlement sometime over Palestine, and to do it gracefully would be a really great act on the part of our first Socialist Government.

I am greatly concerned over the whole question, having studied it for some Years, and delivered lectures on this question, I feel that we owe to the Jews more than we usually admit, and as in all Christian acts a great act of this kind would bring its own good, and would eventually be a quieting effect in the middle East, and also be a preliminary to a general settlement of Central Europe, much of this may sound fantastic, but on reflection it is not more so than many of the suggestions made in the several Commissions which have reported on Palestine in the last 25 Years.

I sincerely trust that you will consider this letter of mine, it is an honest attempt to bring daylight into a very complicated problem, which shows signs of being an international affair, and if I can or have in any way contributed to a solution of this question I shall be most pleased, as I have a great admiration for the Jews, and having suffered myself from War and uncertainty I feel that anyone who can help these unfortunate people should make an effort to do so.

Finally I am aware that many people consider that Palestine should be kept as a guard to the Suez Canal, but our Mandate states we have to raise it to an independent State, and in any case as we are searching for security, the finest way to achieve this is to make friends, and friendship with both the Arabs and the Jews would be greatly hastened by a move of the sort I have suggested.

I remain, Sir.

Your obedient servant.

S. Farrell Hall

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1041

Dear Mr. Bevin:

Would you be willing to send me any information on the subject which would answer such questions as:

What is Britain's present policy in this matter?
What plans have you considered to try to settle the dispute?
What are your comments on these plans?
What has been the reaction on Palestine, and the world,
of the actions which you have taken to try to settle
the question?
What are your greatest difficulties which face you in trying
to solve the problem?

Any other information which you might be able to give me, or any other literature which would help me understand your position, would be greatly appreciated.

Albert W. Decker

ALBERT W. DECKEL,
President, Babson Institute Debating Society.

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1070 Ocean View Avenue
Brooklyn 24, New York
December 19, 1946

112 46 31
8 JAN 1947
Foreign Minister Ernst Bevin
10 Downing Street
London, England

My dear Sir:

For many months there has been strife and chaos in Palestine. During this time many British and Jewish persons have been killed. The situation has embarrassed your country extremely, and the country is on the verge of civil war. To save your country greater embarrassment I advise you to turn over to the United Nations Organization the Trusteeship of Palestine.

Yours truly,

(Mr.) Edel Wasserman
(Mr. Edel Wasserman)

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47
Mr Bevin

Dear Sir

112 46 21
35 Gerrard Rd E
Islington N1
INDEX 8

How much longer have these boys in Palestine got to suffer this tension and ordeal also their Parents & relations at home. They were called up to fight Germans not Jews & Arabs. If the United Nations won't do then I have thrown up the Mandate and withdraw. What are we to try and do it all on our own. This policy in Palestine was drawn up by Balfour & Co, as the Party got a policy of its own, otherwise we might as well have put the old gang back again. They could not do things much worse. Why are our troops in Greece keeping a king on his throne who a great part of the People don't want. We have got to give up Palestine, Egypt & India withdraw the troops ^{now} & the show up in demobilisation in the army is a disgrace and should never have happened. How much longer have these boys to be kept from home. Surely it is not beyond the brains of the Party to find some answer to these problems
Yours most strongly
J H Pearson

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K 9

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Dec. 15, 1946

Most Hon. Prime Minister Atlee
10 Downing St.
London, England

46
Rec. 4. 1. 47

Dear Sir:

Hear Sir:
 Congratulations to British Foreign
 Secretary Bevin for refusing to give
 up the mandate over Palestine. The
 Valor and Tradition of Britain must
 remain."

Britain must stay a world power
second to none. In order to do this,
She must keep India and Palestine!

Best of wishes,

Robert Henry Gibbs

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ACKNOWLEDGED

19, SEDGECOMBE AVENUE,

KENTON, HARROW,

MIDDLESEX.

January 6th. 1947.

E112 /46 13 JAN 1947

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.
Foreign Minister, House of Commons.
PALESTINE AND POLITICS.

INDEXED

Sir,

Owing to the increasing gravity of the situation in Palestine I desire to call your attention to certain evidence, usually ignored, which it may be imperative to take into account, if we are to attempt to solve the problem, created by the Mandate, and to place the whole matter in its historic setting.

So far as I am aware we have no great Eastern scholars in the House of Commons. The scholarship of the past is thrust in the background. I have called the attention of certain Labour Members of the present House, as well as that of Mr. Churchill, Mr. Anthony Eden and others, to the fact that there is little conclusive scientific evidence which tends to prove that the Jews, as a highly-civilized race, such as were the Egyptians, Hittites, Assyrians, and other Eastern races, ever existed in the land they now claim, for some thousands of years. If they did not so exist, then, outside the Mandate, they have no legal claim to Palestine. I do not wish to be referred to such hypothetical data as those of the Pool of Siloam, or to the "coins" of the Maccabees whose dates are quite unknown. In legal matters we must have proved evidence, not guesswork.

Governing races are usually ignorant of the people they govern; we British are no exception to that rule. We know nothing of their social life. A former servant of the Crown, the late Sir Richard Burton, one of our greatest Arabic scholars, considered it a "disgrace that our Rulers should rule so many million Easterns, and be as ignorant of them as if they lived in a far-away planet." Burton was speaking particularly of the Arabs of his day. It is vital to take into account the character of a people, and, of those, not the men who shout the loudest. The fact that rich Jews want little or nothing to do with their co-religionists, who are parading under the Zionist flag, appears to have little influence in the right direction in framing a policy for Near East problems. To know a people you must live as they live; you must understand their past as well as their present; but we pass our verdicts without knowing either.

As there are Arabs and Arabs so are there Jews and Jews. In England as well as elsewhere the refined Jew, like the refined Arab, is a gentleman; but there are those who are not

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refined but have a strong political "pull." What, asked Dr. Chaim Weizmann, where are your Zionists? He declared he trembled lest the British Government asked him "What is this Zionist Organization?" Why should Dr. Weizmann tremble? Would our Members of the House of Commons likewise "tremble" if they knew all the facts and understood the Near East before they manufactured laws to govern it?

I have referred to Sir Richard Burton who, it is declared, had "the impolitic habit of telling political truths"; found from his long experience that the Jew was the deadly enemy of all mankind. Burton referred, of course, to his contact with them in Syria and elsewhere. His verdict may be true or it may be false: that depends on the evidence. I quote: "The Jews' fierce passions and fiendish cunning, combined with abnormal powers of intellect, with intense vitality and with a persistency of purpose which the world has rarely seen, and whetted moreover by a keen thirst for blood engendered by defeat and subjection, combined to make him the deadly enemy of all mankind, whilst his unsocial and iniquitous Oral law contributed to inflame his wild lust for pelf and to justify the crimes suggested by spite and superstition." Is that terrible verdict true or is it false? If it be false it must be reversed.

In justice let us turn to Scotland Yard, to the Criminal Investigation Department. After some thirty years' police service Detective Inspector Sweeney told us that Jews often behave with positive arrogance and contempt towards the English. The principal grievance against the Jew is that whole streets pass into his hands; the bulk of young men being those who have run away from their own country because they would have to serve it. They have a low underhanded way of doing things and pass their lives in a filthy condition. They are aggressive and hostile to the people whose country gives them shelter, and are fond of making money by fraudulent bankruptcies. Gambling dens in the East End were unknown before they came. 75 % of adulteration of food stuffs is traceable to them. Most receivers of stolen goods are foreigners.

Once more, one asks, is that verdict true or false? That also must be set aside if untrue and not justified by fact. Burton gave his verdict to the world nearly fifty years ago; that of Sweeney was "broadcast" in 1904. Are the conditions, to which both scholar and police inspector refer, being reproduced in Palestine now? If Parliament does not face the facts in a practical way the facts may face those whom they are paid to serve, in another way.

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Jerusalem, le 6 Janvier 1947

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Secretary of «LA DERNIÈRE CHARITÉ»
Mr. W. SEDLAR, Jerusalem P. O. B. 1356

Sujet Palestine

E 112 / 46 / 31

1461 JAN 1947

Foreign Office, Downing Street 10 London,

Mon cher Secrétaire,

Le Premier jour de la C O N F É R E N C E SUR
L A P A L E S T I N E doit "pratiquement" être réservée
au représentant de la « DERNIÈRE CHARITÉ » et de la Police
Internationale ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "SECURITY".

Elle doit se tenir à "huis clos" et à laquelle
n'assisteront pas ni les Arabes ni les Juifs ni leurs services
d'informations.

Les organisateurs de cette Conférence pourront
ensuite si nécessaire, prendre trois jours à réfléchir et à
prendre la décision, si la Conférence le 24 Janvier ou.... doit
être ouverte ou fermée.

Il y a une "unique solution" sur la Palestine et
liée étroitement avec le monde entier, une solution d'une haute
et extrême d'importance et laquelle appartient uniquement à
la DERNIÈRE CHARITÉ et laquelle par devoir, doit la présenter
le Premier jour de l'ouverture provisoire de la Conférence et
ensuite présenter par les autorités de la Grande Bretagne
aux Arabes et aux Juifs, .. et à la presse.

W E D L A R William
représentant de la Dernière Charité

Secretary of «LA DERNIÈRE CHARITÉ»
Mr. W. SEDLAR, Jerusalem P. O. B. 1356



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En cas besoin écrivez s'il vous plait à Tiberias "Scots Mission
Hospital" où je resterai environ une quinzaine des jours ou
moins si nécessaire,

7/11/1947

Subject: Palestine Problem

Mr Grees,

b/o 'Ald Burchett,'

Holmbury St Mary

Dorking. Surrey.

12/1/47
INDEXED

Dear Sir,

At risk of being a
nuisance, by adding to your
already bulging mail on this
subject, the following
suggestions are forwarded to you.

One's hope is, that they may illuminate, by God's grace, the tragic darkness of Palestine.

Firstly The Few

Expresses his desire to make
Palestine his National Home.

He should therefore be willing to work for it & I

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15 14 JAN 1917

Believe ^{TO DEPT} is so willing, & to accept a plan which will depend upon his own rate of progress. (Then he will not be in a position to criticize others.)

2nd. The Arab.

The other Arab States claim to be exceedingly concerned with the needs of the Palestine Arabs & state that these Arabs are their Brothers.

These other Arab states possess great tracts of uninhabited land, much of which was once fertile, but lack ports railways & modern methods in agriculture etc.

(2.)

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Therefore, the suggestion is this.

Let an agreement be reached among neighbouring Arab States & the Jews, for the Jews to reclaim an equivalent fertile acreage of desert in one or more of those countries & equip it with port & rail facilities.

Then, as they go, transfer sufficient Arabs from Palestine to keep things going & teach them how to do so & move into Palestine an equivalent number of Jews.

This may seem a cumbersome plan but every Jew entering Palestine will add to the momentum & the

(3.)

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plan is utterly progressive.
This is not beyond
the Rich & Clever Few
to accomplish, under God.

Also, it protects &
enriches the Palestine Arabs
& the surrounding States
some of which seeing the
Blessing of such a plan
may assist to mutual
& quicker benefit of both
parties & saving of British lives.

I am,

Yours in The Name
of Jesus Christ,
Malcolm Grees.

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OUT FILE

Draft
Registry No. E112/46/21

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

25 Feb 1947

Dear Chancery,

We enclose ^{ies} ~~a~~ copy of ~~a telegram~~ ² letters
addressed to the Prime Minister
by Ronald Powers of New York
and James E. Schmidt, of Chicago

Please send a suitable
acknowledgment if you think fit.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

Chancery in London.

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(E 112/46/81)

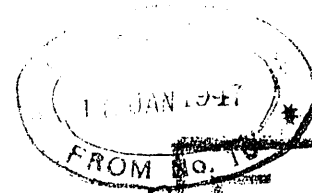
25th February, 1947.

We enclose copies of 2 letters addressed to the Prime Minister by Ronald Powers of New York and Frances E. Schmidt of Chicago.

Yours ever,

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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F.O. 100
INDEXED

Ronald Poyers
984 Sheridan
ave.
Bronx 56, N.Y.C.
N.Y. U.S.A.

112/46/71 Jan. 9, 1947

Dear Sir,
I have been interested in
solving the Palestine Problem,
and have studied it emencely.
I come to the conclusion that
it is a difficult problem and
that there is only one definit
solution and that is to cultivate
the Arabian country, so that it
can be an even better
country than Palestine.

Palestine was once
desert and swamp lands.
And the Jewish people
cultivated it into a beautiful
Country, as you see it today
it is a modern & resourceful
country. This was done in
about 200 hundred years with
hand labor. now with machines
etc. It can be done in about
10 years and won't cost
much, and I am sure the U.S.
will offer money to this cause.

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This is the only suitable way to solve this problem. 21

The Jews & Arabs will agree without an argument, and it will also stop loss of lives.

The reason why they (Arabs) wish to have part of Palestine is because of its resources.

They don't have any definite resources in the desert, and they have to keep on traveling for more supplies. And they don't want to do that, because they want a fairly easy life.

Please cable me after you have considered his suggestion and tell me what you think of it.

Respectfully Yours,
Ronald Dovers
984 Sheridan Ave.
Bronx, N.Y.C. N.Y.C. 25

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Hyde Park Hotel

HYDE PARK BLVD. AND LAKE PARK AVE.

Chicago

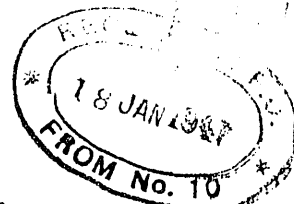
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INDEXED

Re:

Palestine
Question.

Prime Minister Attlee
10 Downing Street
London, England



My dear Mr Minister:

In the January, 1947,
Reader's Digest, I have just been
reading the condensation of
"The Arabs Live There, Too,"
by grandson, Kermik, of the
Theodore Roosevelt family, a
fine and modest family, and
only distantly related to the
recently-refudiated group.

That the Arabs are there,
too, and that Jews have no
legal right to go there, are two
issues often forgotten.

But, often forgotten, too,
is the fact that no country
wants any more refugee Jews -
and a Congressional - cross -

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4 JAN 1947

947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E 141/46/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Lord Laverdage

Dated

W. Ford.

Received
in Registry

19.

3 Jan 1947

4 Jan 1947

H.M.G. Policy towards Palestine.

Refers I.O. 61 YY (E 105/46/5). Informs
Rabbi Silver, communicated with Lord Laver-
dage on his return to U.S., & wish to
speak to him before making a public speech
on Monday Evening.

Last Paper.

112

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. W. Ford.

145

Jan 4

J. I. Higham.
B.O.

Jan 6.

J. Miss Hughes. B.O.

W. Ford. 19. Jan 8.

(Action
completed.)

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32003 F.O.P.

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Monday morning.

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CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

D. 4.43 p.m. 3rd January, 1947
R. 10.00 p.m. 3rd January, 1947

4 JAN 1971

LIGHT



4 JAN 1971

A circular clock face with Roman numerals from I to XII. The text 'JAN' is at the top, and '1947' is on the right side. The hands of the clock are visible, pointing to approximately 10:10.

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Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

27

4th January, 1947.

SECRET

E 141/46/71
8 JAN 1947

Dear Harold,

We received this morning a copy of Lord Inverchapel's telegram No.19 of the 3rd of January regarding his coming interview with Dr. Silver. The matter was discussed with the Secretary of State who thinks that it would be undesirable for Lord Inverchapel to give Dr. Silver any advice or indication of the policy and intentions of His Majesty's Government. It would seem preferable, as Lord Inverchapel himself suggests, for him merely to listen to what Dr. Silver has to say.

Yours sincerely,
Douglas Harris

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E.

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Registry
No.

OUT FILE

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

4 January, 1947.

Despatched 5 30 P.M.

Draft.

WASHINGTON

IMMEDIATE.

Telegram.

Your telegram No.19 [of January 3rd:
Palestine].

No. 145

Date Jan 4.

Cypher

On the intentions of His Majesty's Government there is nothing to add to my telegram No.77.

2. In view of the representations you will now have made to Byrnes about American support for the terrorists in Palestine, I think it advisable that you should also speak plainly to Silver on this subject. Terrorism is poisoning the relationship between Great Britain and the Zionist movement, and if Silver attaches any value to this relationship he should be prepared to devote a part of his speech to a reasoned condemnation of terrorist activities. It is not enough that he should follow the example of many Zionist orators who briefly denounce terrorism and lengthily fasten the blame for it on British policy. He should address himself in particular to his American fellow citizens and make it clear that the responsible Zionist leadership in the United States does not approve of the activity of those American citizens who are raising funds to finance the Palestine terrorists.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Cabinet distribu-
tion.

H.B. 4/1

my 4/1

3/1

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CYPHER/OTP

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

D: 5.35 p.m. 4th January, 1947.

000 0000 000

Your telegram No. 19 [of January 3rd: Palestine].

2. In view of the representations you will now have made to Byrnes about American support for the terrorists in Palestine, I think it advisable that you should also speak plainly to Silver on this subject. Terrorism is poisoning the relationship between Great Britain and the Zionist movement, and if Silver attaches any value to this relationship he should be prepared to devote a part of his speech to a reasoned condemnation of terrorist activities. It is not enough that he should follow the example of many Zionist orators who briefly denounce terrorism and lengthily fasten the blame for it on British policy. He should address himself in particular to his American fellow citizens and make it clear that the responsible Zionist leadership in the United States does not approve of the activity of those American citizens who are raising funds to finance the Palestine terrorists.

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1947

E

E...145

6 JAN 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E145/46/31
FROM I. Robinson
No. Br. Consulate
Dated St. Paul
Received Minnesota
in Registry 16 Dec 1946
6 Jan 1947

Palestine Situation.
Enclosed letter from Consulate St. Paul
to J.E. Bromley, Embassy W. York re
allowing refugee Jews to enter U.S.A.
Regrouping now taking in Minnesota
which showed that 60% of state are
against letting Jews enter U.S. enclosed
copy of poll report.

Last Paper.

141

(Minutes.)

N. American Press

1473. 87

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

PM 11/06

(Index)

11/10/46

Next Paper.

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32003 F.O.P

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E-145

50 JAN 1947

12

His Majesty's Consul at

12

12

12

12

32
British Consulate
St. Paul - Minneapolis

Ref: 40 PAL/46

December 16, 1946.

Dear Bromley,

My letter of October 16th about Palestinian and cognate affairs.

In recent speeches to groups between 40 and 150 people, I have been challenging people, in a civil kind of a way, to face the issue presented by the 600,000 Jewish refugees in Europe, and to give a lead to the English and Spanish speaking countries by permitting the present number of Jews in this republic to be increased by three or five per cent.

The usual response has been merely one of appreciation of the subject of one's talk as a whole; but some people will assuredly have taken the moral to heart. One lady can always be counted upon to say, "We cannot look after our own people, why should we look after Jews", but it is possible, in a kindly way, to shame her into silence.

The latest Minnesota Poll purports to show that 60% of the State are against letting homeless Europeans enter the U.S. The Poll is conducted under unimpeachable auspices, and the sponsors, some of whom I know, feel that the 1500 samples which are taken, consistently reflect public opinion with fidelity.

I enclose a copy of the Poll report, taken from the editorial page of the Minneapolis Morning Tribune of December 12th.

The figures give rise to the hope that an intelligent and sustained lead, might well produce sufficient support for a policy of admission.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Reports Division of the Embassy, and the North American Department of the F.O.

Yours ever,

T. E. Bromley, Esq.,
British Embassy,
Washington 8, D.C.

Joseph Robinson.

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MINNESOTA POLL SHOWS

60% of State Against Letting Homeless Europeans Enter U.S.

Three of every five Minnesotans are opposed to the admission of any of Europe's 1,000,000 homeless persons to the United States.

Among the 29 per cent who feel that some of the war-uprooted Europeans should be allowed to enter this country, the average figure they fix on admissions is approximately 250,000 - or about one-fourth of the estimated total seeking new homes.

The Minnesota Poll's interviewers asked a scientific cross-section sample of the state's adult population:

"About a million people of many nationalities in Europe have been made homeless and must find new homes in different countries. Do you think the United States should let any of these people enter this country?"

The replies were:

Yes	29%
No	60%
Undecided	11%

City, town and farm people's opinions on the matter show close similarity, as do the views of men compared with women.

An analysis of replies by educational background, however, discloses differences:

	<u>Grade School</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>College</u>
Yes	27%	26%	40%
No	58%	66%	52%
Undecided	15%	8%	8%

To the 29 per cent of the persons who replied "Yes" to the question on admission of any of the homeless persons to the United States, a second question was put:

"About how many of these people should the United States take in - one-fourth, one-half, three-fourths, all of them or some other amount?"

These were the answers (converted into approximate numbers):

1,000,000	4%
750,000	1%
500,000	10%
333,333	1%
250,000	39%
200,000	1%
125,000	2%
100,000	2%

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50,000	22%
25,000	4%
Other replies	14%

An average for all replies is 250,510 persons.

Comments of persons willing to admit some of the homeless persons include: "Admit as many as possible"; admit as many as would make desirable citizens"; "admit just those from northern Europe"; "admit a small percentage but not Jews"; "take a percentage of young people"; "let in persons from the Scandinavian countries and Belgium, and exclude the others"; "admit only as many as this country can handle, because it might cause unemployment if too many come in"; "admit just the homeless children, to be brought up in the American way".

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 153
26 JAN 1947

35

Registry
Number

E153/46/31.

FROM

B.O.

No.

600000.

Dated

Received
in Registry

31 Dec 1946
6 Jan 1947

7.1.1947 Policy towards Palestine.

Encloses note by Colonial Secretary, discussing
the various proposed solutions to the
Palestine Problem and the reactions of both
Jews and Arabs to same, further mentions
the handing over of the whole Palestine
affair to U.N.O.

Last Paper.

147

(Minutes.)

References.

MB. 97

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

9/11/47

(Index.)

21/6/48

Next Paper.

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32003 F.O.P

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and in any event there would seem to be little point in ~~as~~ warning the Arabs if we are ourselves to enter the Conference with the conviction that agreement is impossible.

Paragraph 9

It is not clear what is meant by the statement that "the Labour Party is deeply committed to the policy of the Jewish National Home". The policy of favouring the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine is embodied in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate and has at no time been renounced by any British Government. The authors of the White Paper of 1939 certainly believed that their proposals were compatible with this commitment. The Colonial Secretary may of course mean that the Labour Party is committed to doing more for the Zionists than carrying out the previous engagements of His Majesty's Government.

If the Colonial Secretary's memorandum is to form the basis of a paper for submission to the Cabinet the last sentence of this paragraph might with advantage be expanded. Before any policy in Palestine is finally adopted by the Cabinet, the Chiefs of Staff should be asked to examine it in relation to the general distribution of our military resources and to the maintenance of our strategic position in the Middle Eastern area as a whole.

Paragraph 10.

The Colonial Secretary here expresses the opinion that the Jews would wish His Majesty's Government to impose a policy on Palestine. This surely depends on the nature of the policy to be imposed. This paragraph of his paper in fact rests on the implicit assumption that if a policy were to be imposed by His Majesty's Government/

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ernment it would be a policy favourable to the Zionists. Thus it is argued that the imposition of a decision from London would "bring on our heads Arab hostility". Is it necessary to assume that, if we decide to face the consequences of imposing a settlement satisfactory to one of the two peoples in Palestine, that that people should necessarily be the Jews?

In paragraph 10(a) no account is taken of the possibility that we might, by agreeing to negotiate with the Arab States on the basis of their plan, succeed in introducing amendments which would make the plan more acceptable to us than it is in its present form.

It is extremely doubtful whether partition has the merit claimed for it in paragraph 10(b), that "it offers the best prospect of finality." Partition on the contrary would establish a frontier threatened from both sides by irridentist agitation, and would thus introduce a new element of instability into the Middle East.

Paragraph 11

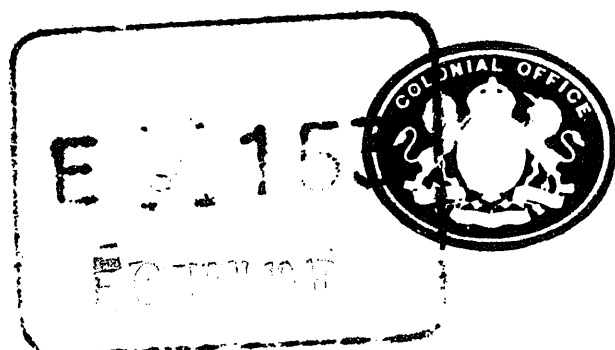
Here again the Arab plan is dismissed as unacceptable, without reference to the possibility that it might be modified as a result of further negotiations with the Arab delegations at the forthcoming Conference. The principal reason put forward in paragraph 10(a) for the rejection of the Arab proposal is that it would result in "a major civil war in Palestine." So far as can be seen at present, this result would follow from the imposition of any settlement whatsoever in Palestine, whether by His Majesty's Government or by the United Nations. The Arab proposal cannot be dismissed from consideration by means of an argument which applies more or less equally to all alternative proposals.

Paragraphs 12 and 14

The statement in paragraph 12, that if His Majesty's

Government/

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

21/12/46

My dear Ernest

I have tried faithfully to put into
the attached paper the views we reached in
our conversation yesterday morning. It
presents the problem in as direct and as
limited a way as I can make it.

Yours

Arthur

P.S.

Ben Gunion has asked to see me on Thursday.
The High Commissioner will return for consultations with us on
Friday

Arrange for Sec
Cob to see before before
me Committee of MD

Discussed with the
Colonial Secretary today.

PD.
1/1/47.

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41

PALESTINE.

The recent Zionist Conference in Basle produced the following results —

- (a) The victory of the American extremist group headed by Dr. Silver.
- (b) The overthrow of Dr. Weizmann and the eclipse of the moderate leaders.
- (c) Refusal of the Jews to attend the Palestine Conference "in existing circumstances".
- (d) Zionists will accept no arrangement in Palestine which involves further trusteeship or tutelage of any kind.

2. Everything that H.M.G. could do to avert these results has been done but without avail. In America, the Foreign Secretary met the American leaders of the various Zionist sections on several occasions and warned them frankly of the dangers into which they were running. Both in Paris and in New York he discussed on various occasions the whole question at length with Mr. Byrnes and also registered a protest at the situation which was developing under which terrorism in Palestine was being actively and publicly encouraged by American citizens and illegal immigration was being openly financed by American funds. Mr. Byrnes subsequently made an announcement urging the Jews to attend the Conference and promising to send observers on behalf of the United States Government.

3. At the same time, the Colonial Secretary interviewed Zionist leaders in London and impressed on them the need for co-operation with H.M.G. Assurances were given that, if the Jews attended the Conference, the fullest possible consideration would be given to any plan which they might desire to put forward. With a view to assisting the more moderate and rational elements to obtain control and to combat the increasing terrorism in Palestine, those Zionist leaders who had been interned were released and special measures taken to expedite the transfer to Palestine of the illegal immigrants held in detention in Cyprus and to recognise their claims to release under the approved quota.

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4. These steps have not prevented the extreme elements of America from dominating the Conference at Basle and creating the situation set out in paragraph 1. This state of affairs is causing grave concern both to moderate Jews in Palestine and to British Jewry. They see future Zionist policy determined by American extremists with whom they have, in general, little sympathy. Jewish leadership in spite of the representation of a substantial element of the moderates on the new Council and Executive of the Zionist Organisation is bound to be uncertain and unstable in the days ahead. They are likely to urge that their non-attendance in present circumstances implies some action by H.M.G. which will bring about the conditions in which they can attend. Some of the leaders come to London this week and wish to see the Colonial Secretary.

5. With the new situation we may anticipate:-

- (a) A recrudescence of terrorism and an increase of violence and disorder.
- (b) An increase in Jewish illegal immigration.
- (c) An increase in Arab restiveness and a development of Arab armed organisations, probably leading to reprisals and inter-communal disturbances. The situation is already grave and the Mufti appears to be encouraging Arab disturbances.
- (d) Increased resentment on the part of the British Forces in Palestine, who are likely to find themselves exposed to various forms of violence and humiliation without being able to take what they would regard as adequate countermeasures.
- (e) The heavy strain under which the Civil Administration is already labouring reaching breaking point.

6. H.M.G. must forthwith determine the policy which they will adopt for the future.

7. The Palestine Conference will reassemble on the 21st January. There is something to be said for cancelling the Conference because the delay in holding the Conference (which will probably prove abortive) will further exasperate the terrorists, and the forces in Palestine and the public generally. But it would probably be unwise to cancel this arrangement, since -

- (a) The Conference so far is with the Arab States. The Arabs regard it as a matter in which the Jews have

no

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10. The difficulty of imposing a policy on Palestine is that it can only be done by force and maintained by Britain alone. Undoubtedly the Jews would wish it and a section of the British press endorse it. But any attempt to do so would involve us heavily in the Middle East and bring on our heads Arab hostility

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hostility. It would also be argued that such a course was in violation of the spirit of the Mandate. The Arabs would certainly refer the dispute to the Security Council and Britain would be put on the defensive. It seems better that H.M.G. should themselves make the reference to U.N.O. at the start and appeal to the international conscience on the matter. If however the attempt to impose a scheme on Palestine were adopted there are three main lines of policy which H.M.G. could consider, i.e.

- (a) The Arab plan for the conversion of Palestine into an Arab State in which the Jews would figure as a permanent minority. This plan, which embodies all the features of the White Paper of 1939 and others equally repugnant to Jewish opinion, would, if implemented, be so strongly resisted by the whole Jewish community that a major civil war in Palestine would be the inevitable result. Apart from this result, it would be impossible for H.M.G. to defend the arrangement, in view of their responsibility for creating and safeguarding the Jewish National Home which, under it, would be subjected to Arab majority control with no interference from outside.
- (5)

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(b) Partition. This solution has many merits. It is urged by influential sections of public opinion here and would probably satisfy the Labour Party. It offers the best prospect of finality, would enable immediate independence to be granted to at least half the Arabs of Palestine and would allow of an area being placed at the disposal of the Jews in which they would be free to promote immigration and develop the National Home on their own lines. On the other hand, it has serious difficulties, among them the facts that it is impossible to carve two self-supporting States out of Palestine and that the Jewish settlements are so situated that any workable plan of partition involves including a very large Arab minority and the best Arab land in the Jewish State. It is doubtful whether any boundary can be drawn which, while not demonstrably unfair to the Arabs, would result in a Jewish State which the Jews would accept as in any way consistent with Zionist aspirations. Moreover, the Arab States have expressed themselves as implacably opposed to partition, since they fear that an independent Jewish State on the Palestine seaboard would, if established, be used as a spearhead for further penetration into the Arab countries of the Middle East.

10. There are big difficulties in regard to each of these plans. For the reasons stated, the Arab plan cannot be accepted. To attempt to implement the Provincial Autonomy plan would bring us into violent conflict with both sides and entail a military commitment greater than we should be justified in undertaking, even if we could find the forces to do so. The Arabs have made it clear that, if we decide in favour of Partition, they will appeal to the United Nations. None of these plans offers any immediate solution of the problem by imposition by Britain and

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14.

14. H.M.G. in placing the matter before the United Nations, would submit the three main plans and explain their own proposal for Provincial Autonomy as one consistent with the terms of the Mandate which they would have been prepared to adopt as a reasonable compromise between the claims of the two communities. The apprehensions of Arabs and Jews alike could be shown largely to arise from misunderstanding of the scheme. It has however been rejected by both. The only hopeful alternative H.M.G. would submit is the plan of partition and H.M.G. would have accepted it had it been found that both sides acquiesce. The Arabs, however, have shown themselves unwilling even to discuss partition. In these circumstances, H.M.G. would ask the United Nations to accept responsibility for the choice of a policy and for its implementation, as well as for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine during the intervening period.

15. It is most desirable that a special and urgent meeting of the Assembly should be convened to consider the matter. It is not clear whether this procedure would involve the meeting of the Security Council. It will be appreciated that circumstances in Palestine being what they are, once our intention to abdicate becomes known, the position of the Civil Government in Palestine will become wholly untenable.

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and closed until..... *1998*

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E

E 198

6 JAN 1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E198/46/31

FROM

J.A.K. Christie

No.

Privy Council

Dated

Received
in Registry

to M'Kenna.

3 Jan 1947

6 Jan 1947

Palestine Policy.

Encloses letter addressed to Lord President by M.A.W. Deekel, asking that he be furnished with text of plan for settlement of Palestine problem mentioned by Lord President in debate

Last Paper.

191

(Minutes.)

References.

2711

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. J.A.K. Christie

Privy Council

from M'Kenna

in Original 6

W. T. T. T.

4 enc from 112/46/31.

Jan 29

(Action
completed.)

J.C.M. 3/2

(Index)

24/18

Next Paper.

216

The Secretary of State has received a similar letter from the same writer. This is being sent to Washington for the Embassy to deal with (see E112 attached), and I suggest the Lord President's might go with it.

H.B. 23/

Private Secretary

P.D.

10/11

See Mr. Kimmins minutes within.
Draft submitted. See also E112.

H.B. 23/

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E

E 118

6 JAN 1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E198/46/31

J.A.K. Christie

Privy Council

office

to M'Kenna

3 Jan 1947

6 Jan 1947

Palestine Policy

Encloses letter addressed to Lord
President by M.A.W. Deekel, asking
that he be furnished with text of
plan for settlement of Palestine problem
mentioned by Lord President in debate

Last Paper.

191

(Minutes.)

References.

2711

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. J.A.K. Christie

Privy Council
office,

from M'Kenna

in Original 6
Jan 24

W. T. W.

2. enc from 112/46/31.

Jan 29

(Action
completed.)

G.E. 3/2

(Index)

2/1/48

Next Paper.

216

The Secretary of State has received a
similar letter from the same writer. This
is being sent to Washington for the
Embassy to deal with (see E112 attached),
and I suggest the Lord President's might
go with it.

H.B. Selby 87

Private Secretary
PD.
10/11

See Mr. Kinnaird's minutes within.
Draft submitted. See also E112.

H.B. 23/11

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Minutes.

49

Mr. Beeley

On Jan. 3rd the Lord President's office wrote us about a Mr. A.W. Deckel and the Palestine Debate. They would like an immediate answer. Can you please arrange?

P. F. Kinross
11/1

Mr. Kinross

The paper is on its way to you with the suggestion that Washington should be asked to deal with Mr. Deckel's letter.

H. Beeley

I have spoken to Lord President's Office, who agree to your suggestion above. Would you please let me have a letter to Christie to confirm.

Mr. Beeley

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Registry
No. E.198/46/31

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

J.A.K.
Draft. to Mr. Christie, ~~not to~~
Priority Bureau Office
(from Mr. Kinna?)

P.K. 20/1
Mr. Kinna first

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 WL 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.S.

OUT FILE

22
24 Jan 51

My Dear Christie,
Please refer to your letter of January 3rd, enclosing a letter which the Lord President had received from a Mr. Deckel of Massachusetts and asking for our agreement with the line of your proposed line of reply.

I now confirm that, as we agreed over the telephone, the letter in question, is being sent to an Embassy in Washington, together with another which the same correspondent sent to the Foreign Secretary, and that they are being asked to answer it at their discretion.

Yours Sincerely

(Sgd) P.F. Kinna. H.B. 187

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(E. 198/46/31).

OUT FILE

52
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

24th January, 1947.

My Dear Christie,

Please refer to your letter of 3rd January, enclosing a letter which the Lord President had received from a Mr. Deckel of Massachusetts and asking for our agreement with your proposed line of reply.

I now confirm that, as we agreed over the telephone, the letter in question, together with another which the same correspondent sent to the Foreign Secretary, is being sent to an Embassy in Washington, and that they are being asked to answer it at their discretion.

Yours Sincerely

(Sgd) (P.F. Kinna).

J.A.K. Christie, Esq.,
Privy Council Office.

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OUT FILE

Registry No. *E198/46/31* FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29 Jan 1947

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of ^{1st} ~~2~~ ^{telegram} ~~letter~~
addressed to *Mr Herbert Morrison*
and Mr Bevin, by A.W. Crocker
of *Rabson Institute, Massachusetts.*

Please send a suitable
acknowledgment if you think fit.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

Chancery W. Ton.

HB: 23/

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

(E. 198/46/31)

29th January 1947.

Dear Chancery,

We enclose copies of 2 letters addressed
to Mr. Herbert Morrison and Mr. Bevin, by
A.W. Dockel of Babson Institute, Massachusetts.

Please send a suitable acknowledgement
if you think fit.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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54
Room 108, Park Manor,
Babson Institute of Business,
Babson Park 57, Massachusetts,
December 5, 1943

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Recently you were quoted in the New York Times as having presented a plan for the settlement of Palestine's future. The article quoting you did not mention what your plan was, but merely did say that you had a plan, and that when you were quoted about it you said that it differed with one presented by Representative Joseph Clark Baldwin, of New York.

Would it be possible for you to send me a copy of your plan, and also why you believe it will work for Palestine? Any remarks by you as to why you presented this particular plan, what it is expected to do, what the policy of your government is in regard to the plan, and the type of reaction it aroused in the minds of your fellow countrymen, will also be appreciated.

The information which you give me will be used in a series of debates which the Debating Society of this school is to undertake in 1947 with the largest colleges in the United States. It will be used purely for academic purposes in this way, and will not be given out for publication or for any purposes of private profit, unless you state you have no objection to being quoted in the press here as we develop our cases in debating the other schools in the country.

Any references which you might give me, or any other literature which would help me understand your position and which you feel free to send me, would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
President, Babson Institute Debating Society

Albert W. Decker

ALBERT W. DECKER.

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		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> E221/G </div>	
4 E221 146/G		Palestine EASTERN	
F.O. Hin Mr Henderson Dated 3 Jan Received 7 Jan		Policy towards Palestine Attaches record of conversation between Mr Truman and Mr Revin on 8 Dec 1946.	
Last Paper. E191		(Minutes.) N. American ^{and 9/1} ^{Sept}	
References.		H. Barclay W. H. ^{7/1} 8/1 R. V. G. ^{7/1} 8/1.	
(Print.)			
(How disposed of.)			
(Action completed.) 25/1	(Index.) W. H.		
Next Paper.			

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6 JAN 1947

E

E221

56

Mr. Beeley

The SBD has
no objection to the
extract in Palestine
being entered. But
he wants it
treated
secretly.

J. Henderson
S.I.

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The Secretary of State told Mr. Truman that he thought the provincial autonomy, or ^{Morrison} Brook-Grady plan, was a very fair and practical proposal. One of its advantages was that it would not involve a reference to U.N.O. U.N.O. would mean bringing in other Powers, such as Russia. Mr. Truman interjected that it would be wise to keep them out.

On the subject of the Jewish Leaders, Mr. Truman said he had had discussions with Mr. Ben ^{Gurion} ~~Gurion~~ and Dr. Goldman. He added "I can get nowhere with Dr. Silver; he thinks everything I do is wrong." Mr. Truman agreed with a remark of the Secretary of State's that Dr. Weizmann was the most intelligent of all the Jewish Leaders. The Secretary of State admitted that the Jews were difficult; "They somehow expect one to fulfill all the prophecies of all the prophets. I tell them sometimes that I can no more fulfill all the prophecies of Ezekiel than I can those of that other great Jew, Karl Marx."

The Arabs were difficult too, Mr. Bevin continued. But they would not be able to maintain the status quo in Palestine as they wanted. He was ^{hopeful} ~~confident~~ that in spite of all the difficulties, H.M.G. would be able to get a settlement. The attitude of both Arabs and Jews was better now than it had been. Mr. Truman agreed, saying he thought it would be easier for him to help now that the U.S. elections were over. Mr. Truman then went out of his way to explain how difficult it had been with so many Jews in New York. He spoke contritely of the awkward position he had been in and reiterated his support for Mr. Byrnes' present policy.

The only other reference to Palestine was an account by the Secretary of State of the possibility of an oil pipeline being built across the Negeb, reaching the Mediterranean somewhere south of Gaza. The advantage of this plan was that it would help with the development of the Negeb, which was the only large unpopulated area of Palestine.

After/

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*Extract from Confidential note of
meeting between President Truman
and Mr. Ernest Bevin at the White House
11 AM. Sunday 8th December 1946*

meant sacrifices. Britain had sold in the war getting on for £5000 million of overseas investments. There was a struggle ahead but we would pull through. Mr. Truman said he thought "it was only the British people who could meet such a situation in this way."

Mr. Truman then turned to Mr. Bevin and said that he had heard of the discussions Mr. Bevin had been having in New York with Mr. Byrnes on the subject of Palestine. He, Mr. Truman, wanted Mr. Bevin to know that he was in complete agreement with everything Mr. Byrnes was doing on this subject. "If the British Government reached an accord over Palestine the U.S. Government would be very pleased to give any help they could, including finance".

The Secretary of State said that he did not expect an "accord". It would never be possible to get Jews and Arabs to agree with each other over this. The trouble was that H.M.G. had given conflicting pledges. At this Mr. Truman interrupted to say "So have we". Mr. Bevin then explained that H.M.G.'s aim was to narrow the differences so that there would not be too much hostility from either side to whatever policy was pursued. There was, however, one important matter in which the U.S. Government could help, namely immigration. At the moment he was always up against the plight of the European Jews who had nowhere else to go but Palestine. The Jewish refugee problem was concentrated on Palestine. If only, Mr. Bevin emphasised, the Jews could have somewhere else to go this would reduce the tension. Some move over immigration by the U.S. Government before or at the time of the Palestine Conference next month would have a great effect on the Conference.

Mr. Truman said he agreed that the U.S. Government must do something about immigration. He intended addressing a message to the two Committees of Congress controlling the machinery of legislation on this subject. He thought that there was a quota allowing for 120,000 immigrants which had not yet been used up. The Congress Committees might look into this. Again he repeated that America must help over immigration.

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7 JAN

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28th December 1946.

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E

E 261

8 JAN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 261/46/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Lord Inverchapel
Washington
98.
7 Jan 1947
8 Jan 1947

H.M.G. Policy towards Palestine.

Refers to tel 145 (E 141/46/31), Lord Inverchapel spoke to SILVER in sense mentioned in tel under ref. before Silver made his speech report showed that Silver did devote part of his speech to condemnation of terrorist activities. Report further on conversation.

Last Paper.

229.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel W. Jan. 304

Em. 9.

8/ Ltr. A. Brook

8/ B.O.

✓ Jan 13

(Action completed.)

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P.M. 15/1

21/4/48

Next Paper.

E 273.

A/S F.O.P.

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CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

E 261

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

8 JAN

Lord Inverchapel.
No. 98.

7th January, 1947.

D: 7.07 p.m. 7th January, 1947.

R: 12.30 a.m. 8th January, 1947.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMPORTANT

LIGHT

Your telegram No. 145. E. 10/10/31

I spoke to Silver in this sense on January 6th.

2. He agreed under pressure to do his best to devote part of his speech to a repudiation of terrorist activities. This morning's reports of his speech show that he did in fact do so. I understand that he spoke last and considerably lowered the temperature of the gathering. I shall report further when I have a fuller account of what he said.
3. He gladly undertook to try to put a stop to American support of the terrorists. He mentioned that the name of the United Zionist Revisionists of America had been used in advertisements here without any authority and that a telegram had been sent from Basle disclaiming any kind of sympathy with or support of the terms of the advertisements. (I am informing Byrnes of this). He dismissed the other Zionist groups concerned with contempt as "one man shows" of no value.
4. We then turned to the question of Zionist representation

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- 3 -

for regaining authority over those who now saw their only hope in terrorism.

5. He mentioned that Goldman had been shifted to London because he was out of harmony with the Zionist movement in the United States, and more particularly with Silver himself.

6. Silver left me to see Byrnes.

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Washington 304

Jan 9

by pher

Depl. no. 2

by f.o.

7713. 9/11

OUT FILE

Important

Secret

Your telegram no. 98, paragraph 4.

Ben Gurion was received by the Colonial Secretary on January 2nd. While making it clear that in existing circumstances the Zionist Executive could not attend the Palestine conference, he stated that they would be available for consultation with His Majesty's Government at any time before, during or after the conference, and without conditions. The Basle resolution did not prevent them from entering into exploratory discussions.

2. At a second meeting between the Colonial Secretary and ~~the~~ Ben Gurion, on January 8th, it was agreed that the latter would ^(to arrange for) endeavour a meeting of his Executive to open in London on January 22nd. They might then

/ Foster

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67
enters into discussions, which would
take place in the Colonial Office, with
the Colonial Secretary and possibly
with other Ministers. The discussions
would be informal and would be
given as little publicity as possible.

3. The above is for your own
information. We do not know to what
extent BEN GURION has ^{yet} informed or
consulted SILVER and the other
American members of the Executive. We
are however giving the ~~B~~ substance of
this information to the American
Embassy, while asking them to use
it with the utmost discretion.

H.B. 9/11

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E.261/46/31
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 304

9th January, 1947 D. 8.00 p.m. 9th January, 1947

F F F F

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Your telegram No. 98, paragraph 4.

Ben Gurion was received by the Colonial Secretary on January 2nd. While making it clear that in existing circumstances the Zionist Executive could not attend the Palestine Conference, he stated that they would be available for consultation with His Majesty's Government at any time before, during or after the Conference, and without conditions. The Basle resolution did not prevent them from entering into exploratory discussions.

2. At a second meeting between the Colonial Secretary and Ben Gurion, on January 8th, it was agreed that the latter would endeavour to arrange for a meeting of his Executive to open in London on January 22nd. They might then enter into discussions, which would take place in the Colonial Office, with the Colonial Secretary and possibly with other Ministers. The discussions would be informal and would be given as little publicity as possible.

3. The above is for your own information. We do not know to what extent Ben Gurion has yet informed or consulted Silver and the other American members of the Executive. We are however giving the substance of this information to the American Embassy, while asking them to use it with the utmost discretion.

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8 JAN

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JERUSALEM

Lord Inverchapel D. 11.25 p.m. 7th January, 1947.
No. 2

7th January, 1947. R. 5.55 a.m. 8th January, 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 114

• • • • •

Senator Taft of Ohio now the leading figure in United States Senate, has communicated to me an appeal from a member of the Faculty of Hebrew Union [grp.undec. ? College] at Cincinnati on behalf of Dov Gruner who is reported to have been recently condemned to death by British Military Court for participation in an armed attack on a police station last April. He is said previously to have served in Jewish Brigade of British Army. The appeal originates with a relative of Gruner in Ohio. He appears also to have a relative in West Virginia, one of whose senators is I understand transmitting an appeal to United States Consul General in Jerusalem.

2. As I am likely to receive further enquiries about this case I shall be grateful for details by telegram of the offence for which he was convicted and of facilities for appeal available to him.

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 1947 5 31 </div> <div> Palestine EASTERN </div> <div> E 299 /G 71 </div> </div>	
E 2991461G F.O. Minute Dated Received 9 Jan.	Palestine Conference on 31 Jan States that as Jews will probably be absent from London Conference H. H. G. are faced with alternatives of imposing a policy or surrendering mandate to United Nations.
Last Paper. E 221 (E44) References. (Print.) (How disposed of.)	(Minutes.) This is a note for the S/S's meeting of foreign policy at the Cabinet of Jan (?)/3. 145.107
(Action completed.) 25 107	(Index.) 145.107
Next Paper.	

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28 JAN 1947

E299

28 JAN 1947

Palestine

Eastern Dept (Cairo)
I return this 8 72
book. Sub 71.

The London Conference on Palestine is due to re-assemble on January 21st. It now seems unlikely that the Jewish Agency will be represented, and in any event there is no prospect of reaching a settlement by agreement between all parties. We shall, therefore, be faced with the alternatives of imposing a policy ourselves or of admitting our inability to solve the problem and surrendering our mandate to the United Nations. If the only interests involved were those of the Arabs and Jews, I should be inclined to favour the policy of abdication. But the abandonment of Palestine would have most serious repercussions on our position in the Middle East as a whole. It has been assumed hitherto that the maintenance of influence in the Middle East should be a major objective of British policy, both because of the strategic importance of the area and because of our interest in its increasingly important oil production. Whatever may be the outcome of the protracted negotiations for a revision of our treaty with Egypt, we are committed to withdrawing our troops from that country. We cannot count with certainty on ^{acquiring} ~~clearing~~ military facilities in Cyrenaica. It therefore seems that, unless we are prepared to conclude that the Middle East is no longer of value to us, our right to maintain troops in

/Palestine

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7B

Palestine is of greater importance now than at any previous time. In considering our policy there, we must take ~~count~~^{an} of this general background and of the specifically British interests ~~where~~^{are} involved. ~~The~~ Colonial Secretary and I intend to ask the Cabinet, at a special meeting early next week, to consider proposals for dealing with this situation.

As this is largely a strategic question, it should be considered by the Defence Committee in the first instance. After that

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 300

9 JAN

74

E 300/46 19/

PALESTINE: Discussion with Mr Ben
Gurion

Mr Jones
Colonial Office
to Mr Revin

The note reporting discussion with
Mr Ben Gurion and also
note prepared by Colonial Office.

Dated 3 Jan
Received 9 Jan.

Last Paper.

E 299

(Minutes.)

Please note title

243. 17/11

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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SECRET

- 8 JAN 1947

COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

3rd January, 1947.

1. *SS*
2. *Eastern Dept*
by day letter

I enclose a note of the outstanding points in my discussion with Mr. Ben Gurion on the 2nd of January, together with a further note prepared in this Department.

SS / *Will these two items papers may have escaped your notice through being inadvertently attached to the papers.*
J.H. Henderson
S.I.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ERNEST BEVIN, M.P.

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Note of Interview with Mr. Ben Gurion at the
Colonial Office, 2nd January, 1947.

The Secretary of State received Mr. Ben Gurion, who was in London on a short visit ^{before} on his return to Palestine after the Zionist Congress at Basle, on 2nd January, 1947. Sir George Gater and Mr. J.M. Martin were present.

Referring to the proceedings of the Congress, Mr. Ben Gurion explained that Dr. Weizmann had been defeated because of his one-sided co-operation with His Majesty's Government and his blind trust in Britain. Although, however, he no longer held any official position, he was still first in moral standing. Only the Revisionists were really against him.

Mr. Ben Gurion said that what the opposition at the Congress wanted was reciprocal co-operation from His Majesty's Government. The Yishuv considered themselves a nation and wanted to be allies but not subjects. They had three requirements -

- (i) that every Jew who needed to return to the National Home should be able to do so;
- (ii) that they should be allowed to cultivate all the soil of Palestine excluding that actually cultivated by the Arabs (i.e. some 17 to 18 ^{million} dunams);
- (iii) that they should shape their own life as freely as any other free people.

As regards the question of attendance at the London Conference, Mr. Ben Gurion explained that the Congress resolution had left the decision to the Actions Committee, which had delegated authority in this respect to a sub-committee of some 16 people who could be brought together within 3 or 4 days. Under the Congress resolution this Committee could not agree to attendance at the Conference unless there was a change in existing circumstances. There was no official interpretation of

/what

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what this meant; but Mr. Ben Gurion had no doubt that the intention was ~~either~~ that there should be a change ^{either} in practice (in particular as regards immigration) or in the policy of His Majesty's Government as regards a final solution.

Mr. Creech Jones pointed out that it had already been made abundantly clear that, as immigration was a lively issue at the time of the adjournment of the Conference, it was out of the question to make any alteration during the period of adjournment. His Majesty's Government could not at this point discuss immigration policy or make any gesture in that direction. If that condition were insisted on, we must go forward with the Conference without the Jews.

Mr. Ben Gurion asked why importance was attached to their presence.

Mr. Creech Jones, in reply, explained the earnest desire of the Government to reach a solution and this must depend on the goodwill and co-operation of the parties concerned. They were most anxious to reach some settlement by agreement. He had been profoundly disappointed at the decision of the Congress.

Sir George Gater said that discussion in conference was the ordinary British method of dealing with a problem of this kind.

Mr. Ben Gurion referred to the past experience of the Jews with conferences and committees and said they asked what was the use of appearing again. The Jews felt that the Government already had their plan and did not come to the Conference with an open mind. A formal conference made things more difficult. He asked why there should not be informal talks and indicated that the Basle resolution did not bar such exploratory discussions at any time. They were bound to no formula, not even to the idea of a Jewish State. Those who would take part in such discussions would be the Executive or their representatives (not the representatives of the Actions
/Committee,

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Committee, which was a legislative body).

There was some further discussion of the question of participation at the Conference, the Secretary of State pointing out that there might be several means of implementing the three requirements of the Yishuv which Mr. Ben Gurion had mentioned and that the Conference would provide an opportunity for full discussion; the Government's plan had been put forward as a basis for discussion, but they were in no way bound by it. Mr. Ben Gurion however would not shift from his position, that the Jews would not have free discussion if they came to the Conference.

In reply to a question, Mr. Ben Gurion attributed the strength of Rabbi Silver's group in America partly to tradition^{al} ~~of~~ American distrust of Britain. There was greater trust in His Majesty's Government among British Jews and in the Yishuv, particularly Labour in the Yishuv, who had special sympathy with the present Government of the United Kingdom. The authority of the Yishuv was strong and Mr. Ben Gurion was confident that the American Zionists would follow any definite lead they gave in a matter of importance.

Mr. Creech Jones said that the situation would become even more difficult if there were a further outbreak of terrorism. It would not deter the British Government from any action they thought right but would produce a mood of exasperation and charge the atmosphere with emotion, which would greatly prejudice the chances of reaching a settlement. He also referred to the likely repercussions if there were further arrivals of illegal immigrant ships and expressed the hope that something might be done to reduce these dangers.

Mr. Ben Gurion agreed that terrorism was a calamity and said that the Jewish people as a whole were against it and it hurt them more than it hurt the British. Terrorism was a distortion of^a protest against an unjust policy, but he condemned it and they would do what they /could

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could to reduce it. The Yishuv had no power to
 eradicate it. For that they must have a police force.
 As regards illegal immigration, which he did not regard
 as illegal, he could not agree to take any action
 against it and indicated emphatically that the Jews
 felt they had no choice in this matter.

As regards the resolution of the Congress
 opposing international supervision or trusteeship for
 Palestine, Mr. Ben Gurion said that the meaning was
 that if His Majesty's Government applied to U.N.O. for
 trusteeship, either for themselves or for some other
 power or for international trusteeship, the Jews would
 oppose it: as long as His Majesty's Government ruled
 Palestine they were bound by the Mandate but if for
 any reason they could not carry it out there must be a
 Jewish State. This, he said, was the view of almost
 all sections.

Mr. Ben Gurion's attitude throughout most of
 the interview was one of marked cordiality and he
 referred several times to the natural sympathy between
 the Jews and the British people and his belief that, if
 only the British Government would trust the Jews, there
 would be a growth of confidence on both sides and hope
 of a settlement.

1707
 3/1/46

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NOTE BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COLONIES.

Outstanding features of discussion with Mr. Ben Gurion
on 2nd January 1947.

1. He made it clear that in existing circumstances Congress would not agree to representation at the Palestine Conference, but they wanted reciprocal cooperation from H.M.G. A change in present conditions was a change either in practice (e.g. immigration) or in H.M.G.'s. policy as regards a final solution.
2. ~~The~~ Committee however, was available for discussion or consultation with H.M.G. at any time - before, during or after the Palestine Conference and without conditions. The Basle resolution did not bar exploratory discussions at any time.
3. He was confident that American Zionists would follow any definite lead which Yishuv gave in regard to a solution. They wanted a solution which would accept that
a) every Jew who needed to go to the National Home could go, b) Jews would be able to cultivate the Palestine soil not actually cultivated by the Arabs and c) they should shape their own life as freely as any other free people.
4. He denounced terrorism and saw the grave consequences which flowed from it, though as to illegal immigration that was another matter. I intimated that Government must take a stern line in respect to the continued lawlessness and disorders.

A.C.V.

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<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>1947</p> <p>8 31</p> </div>		<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E 308 / G 81</p> <p>9 JAN 1947</p>
<p>E 308/46/G</p> <p>COS (47) 2nd HQ</p> <p>Hin 2</p> <p>Dated 2 Jan</p> <p>Received 9 Jan.</p>		<p>Palestine: Use of armed forces</p> <p>Report's discussion on policy for use of armed forces to stamp out terrorism.</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E 301</p>		<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>H.B. 101</p>	
<p>References.</p> <p>E 191/46/G.</p>			
<p>(Print.)</p>			
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>			
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/11</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>		
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>(E 464)</p>			

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E

E 314

1947

PALESTINE

10 JAN

Registry
Number

E314/46/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in RegistryLord Laverghay
Washington

153

9 Jan 1947

10 Jan 1947

Last Paper.

308

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed)

(Index.)

GEM/1/11/48

Next Paper.

315

H.M. Policy towards Palestine.

Refers FO. Tel 98 (E261/46/31) Byrnes informed Lord Laverghay that Silver spoke to him in Paris and asked Byrnes to pass direct to F.O. what had been said. Byrnes replied he would rather do it through Lord Laverghay and added that he had no sympathy with Silver's request for a word from H.M.G. but he had suggested that the matter could be discussed with the President.

(Minutes.)

The Ambassador still wants a 'gesture'.

H.B. Berkeley (1)

N. American Dept.

I cannot think that a gesture of any sort would be wise. There is now a cleavage in the right-wing Zionists, Silver versus Wise, on the question of cooperation with or opposition to Britain. Mr. Silver wants a gesture, in my opinion, to convince ourselves that his policy will pay greater dividends - which is an excellent reason why he should not get it. I do not think that the U.S. public as a whole would care a hoot one way or the other.

(signed) F. B. A. Randall

R. G. G. G.

15/1 10/16/1

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Cypher/OTP CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel D. 5.30 p.m. 9th January, 1947
No. 155

R. 10.45 p.m. 10th January, 1947
9th January, 1947

u u u u u

IMPORTANT

LIGHT

My telegram No. 98.

Byrnes tells [gp. undec. ? me] that Silver spoke in the same sense to him. Silver asked that Byrnes should pass on what he had said direct to you. Byrnes replied that he would prefer to do it through myself and added that in all the circumstances he had no sympathy with Silver's request for a "word" from His Majesty's Government, but he hoped that something could be done in the way of a "gesture". I confess that I share this hope.

2. Byrnes also said that he scolded Silver about the Zionist attitude towards the London conference which was "frankly silly".

E 314

10 JAN

10 JAN

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E

E 315

1947

PALESTINE

10 JAN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E315/46/31.
 Sir R Campbell.
 Cairo
 NY. TCR/D140
 (386/1/47)
 4 Jan 1947
 10 Jan 1947

Arming of Arab Villages in Palestine.
 Refers Cairo tel 1892 (E12165/8035/31)
 Encloses copy of note no 60/8/5 of Dec 26
 from League of Arab States
 requesting that in view of intensification
 of terrorism in Palestine U.N.G. should take
 measures with a view to supplying Palestine
 Arabs with arms to defend themselves.

Last Paper.

314

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

6/60 ✓ Jan 17
 Tel) Cairo 119
 Repd) Bagdad 40
 Beirut 21
 Damascus 13
 Amman 14
 Beirut 17
 Jerusalem
 2/10/47 Jan 15.

(Action
completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

316

(Minutes.)

I entirely agree with Sir Ronald
 Campbell's comments on the suggestion made
 by the High Commissioner for Palestine (See
 E 12494); we cannot refuse to receive
 representations of this kind.

On the other hand we are not bound
 to answer them, and it would be in
 accord with the decision taken at an Office
 meeting the other day if we asked Cairo
 simply to acknowledge the note.

By telegraph Cairo in this sense.

Copy to O.

Off herewith

R. G. G. 14/1

14/1

The initials of Mr.

Hans and van.

H-13. 15/1

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E 315

BRITISH EMBASSY,

10 JAN

CAIRO.

TCR/DMD

No. 7.

(386/2/47)

4th January, 1947.

URGENT

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Bowker's telegram No. 1892 of 14th December 1946, and to telegram No. 2148 of December 19th from the High Commissioner for Palestine to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the reported decision of the Arab League to approach His Majesty's Government with a view to the arming of Arab villages in Palestine, I have the honour to transmit the enclosed copy of a note No. 60/8/5 of December 26th from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

2. The Secretary-General's note requests, in accordance with a unanimous decision of the Arab League Council on December 12th, that in view of the recent intensification of terrorism in Palestine His Majesty's Government should take the necessary measures with a view to supplying the Palestine Arabs with such defensive arms and weapons as would enable them to defend themselves against the continually growing danger. The note concludes by stating that the Jewish terrorist menace, coupled with the continuation of immigration and the lack of defensive means at the disposal of the Arabs, is urging the Arab States to take every step to rescue their brethren in Palestine.

3. In view of the suggestion made by the High Commissioner for Palestine in the last sentence of his telegram referred to above, I have refrained from acknowledging receipt of this communication for the time being. I would observe, however, that since 1939 His Majesty's Government have themselves continually invited the Arab States to co-operate with them to devise a solution of Palestine problems, and have convoked the Arab States to repeated conferences on the subject in London. It was to be expected that the invitation of the Arab States to a conference in London in 1939, and our request that they would use their influence to secure a suspension of the Arab revolt, might bring us some relief but would inevitably involve other interventions of the Arab States in regard to Palestine. If we invite such co-operation of the Arab States and listen to their suggestions and complaints, we must, I submit, be prudent in making known to the collectivity of Arab States, i.e. the Arab League, our attitude as regards the receipt of

/communications

The Right Honourable
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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communications from the Arab League dealing with such matters as that which forms the subject of the enclosed note. Moreover, the Arab Delegates at the Arab conference last September raised the question of this particular danger to the Arabs.

4. I should be grateful for an early telegraphic reply indicating what answer should be returned to the Secretary-General's present note.

5. I am sending copies of this despatch and enclosure to His Majesty's Representatives in Bagdad, Beirut, Jerusalem, Amman, Jedda, Damascus, and to the British Middle East Office, Political Intelligence Centre Middle East and Security Intelligence Middle East.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Ronald Campbell

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COPY/DMD

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

SECRETARIAT.

Cairo, December 26th, 1946.

Ref: 60/3/5.

N-O T E

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States presents his compliments to His Excellency the British Ambassador, and has the honour to communicate to him the following, in the name of the League and in accordance with a decision unanimously taken by its Council at its meeting of December 12th, 1946, with the request that it would be kindly conveyed to His Excellency the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London:-

The Arab States, in a number of previous notes addressed to the British Government on the subject, the last of which being the unanimous request made by the Arab Delegations at the London Conference, drew attention to the great dangers of the Jewish terrorist campaign in Palestine, and asked them to take the measures necessary to put an end to these terroristic activities.

Unfortunately, this reign of terror has been intensified of late, exposing the Arab population to serious dangers, and in view of the fact that the Palestinian Government have so far proved themselves powerless to cope with this grave situation, the Arab States, in pursuance of the procedure adopted in the past with the Jews of Palestine, who had been armed by the Government, request the British Government to take the necessary measures with a view to supplying the Arabs of the country with such defensive arms and weapons as would enable them to face and defend themselves against this continually growing danger.

The Jewish terrorist menace, coupled with the continuation of immigration and the lack of defensive means at the disposal of the Arabs, is agitating the Arab world and calling on the Arab States to take every step to rescue their brethren in Palestine.

The Secretary-General of the League avails himself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the British Ambassador the assurances of his highest consideration.

His Excellency
Sir Ronald Ian Campbell, K.C.M.G., O.B.,
His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,
The British Embassy,
Cairo.

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Registry
No. E 315/46/31

OUT FILE

Draft.

P.M. Ambassador
Cairo

Telegram.

no:

cypher

No 2 Dept ad

Repeat

Bagdad

no:

Beirut

no:

Damascus

no:

Amman

no:

Jedda

no:

Jerusalem

no:

Cable C.O.

15/11

Despatched

M.

(Jerusalem only) Please pass to Ambassador
as my tel No 14.

Your despatch no: 7 [d] forwarding to
note from Arab League about
suggesting the arming of Arab villages
in Palestine].

Please return simple acknowledgement
to this note. It is not proposed to send
any further reply.

R. S. M.
15/11

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUT FILE

E.315/46/31.

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

No. 119.

D: 8.55 a.m. 16th January, 1947.

15th January, 1947.

Repeated to: Bagdad No. 40,
Beirut No. 21,
Damascus No. 13,
Amman No. 14,
Jedda No. 17,
Jerusalem.

000 000 000

[Jerusalem only] Please pass to Amman as my telegram No. 14.

Your despatch No. 7 [of January 4th: note from Arab League suggesting the arming of Arab villages in Palestine].

Please return simple acknowledgement to this note.
It is not proposed to send any further reply.

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47

PALESTINE

10 JAN

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FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

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References.

(Print.)

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(Minutes.)

Summit of Mt. ...

Yes.

1. Palestine 148 22 '90m
2. To Palestine 183 20 '90m

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

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E 316

C.O.S. 3rd Mtg 3/1/47. *sent 6 Sept 3/1.*

2. PALESTINE - USE OF ARMED FORCES
(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(47) 2nd Mtg. Min. 2)

THE CHIEFS OF STAFF continued their discussion about the advisability, for military reasons, of making a public announcement on the change of policy on the use of the armed forces in Palestine to the extent necessary to stamp out the terrorists.

LORD MONTGOMERY said from the Army point of view there was no reason to make a public announcement on this change of policy. Such an announcement was not necessary in order to raise the morale of the Army. If, however, it was necessary for political reasons to make an announcement, he considered it most important that once an announcement was made, the policy declared in that announcement should be followed to its ultimate end, as any modification of a policy once embarked upon would be detrimental to morale.

In discussion, there was general agreement with these views.

THE COMMITTEE:

Invited Sir Leslie Hollis to convey their views, as agreed in discussion, to the Minister of Defence.

*See Memo
Earl's Dist
Vg*

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INWARD TELEGRAM

316 46 Q.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 22nd January, 1947.

R. 22nd " " 11.00 hrs.

INDEXED

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 118 Top Secret and Personal.

Copy to C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces.

Your telegram No. 133.

C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces came to see me yesterday and I showed him the new directive. We agreed that the present policy of searches in terrorist areas met the condition of keeping the initiative and the C.-in-C. is satisfied that continuation of this policy gives the Army the latitude which they require.

Distributed to:-

MS. 25
Secretary of State
Sir G. Gater
Mr. I. Thomas
Mr. Martin
No. 10 Downing Street
Lord President
Admiralty
War Office
" " (H.O. 4.)
" " (H.I. 3.)
Air Ministry
Cabinet Offices
" "
Foreign Office
" "
M.I. 5.
Ministry of Defence
" "

Sir D. Harris
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Rathleson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
P.S. to Prime Minister.
Private Secretary.
Private Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
Private Secretary.
C.I.E.S.
Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
Lt. Col. Gave.
Private Secretary.
Chief of Air Staff.
Defence Office.
Sir N. Brook.
Mr. C.G. Eastwood.
Private Secretary.
Mr. C.W. Baxter.
Mr. A.J. Kellar.
Private Secretary.
Sir R. Wilson Smith.

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316 46 21

INDEXED

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 20th January, 1947. 21.30 hrs.

Reference:-

No. 133 Top Secret.

My telegram No. 2550.

Use of Armed Forces.

My immediately following telegram contains the text of the directive on the use of the armed forces in Palestine approved by Cabinet on 15th January. Directive is in the terms agreed by you with Chief of Imperial General Staff.

2. In discussion on this directive it was re-affirmed that final responsibility for authorising the use of military would remain with the High Commissioner as head of the Civil Government. The hope was expressed that you would be able to permit the military to take full advantage of the latitude permitted by the directive, although it was conceded that action in recent weeks under existing arrangements had been effective and of the type desired by the military authorities. Vigorous action should be continued in an endeavour to keep the initiative against the terrorists.

You will no doubt maintain full consultation with Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, in the application of the directive.

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 Mr. I. Thomas
 Mr. Martin
 Sir D. Harris
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. Mathieson
 Mr. Higham
 Mr. Bennett
 No.10 Downing Street
 Lord President
 Admiralty
 "
 War Office
 " "
 " " (M.O.4.)
 " " (M.I.3.)
 Air Ministry
 "
 Cabinet Offices
 " "
 " "
 Foreign Office
 " "
 M.I.5.
 Ministry of Defence
 " " "

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Private Secretary.
 - First Sea Lord.
 - Private Secretary.
 - C.I.G.S.
 - Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
 - Lt. Col. Gore.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Chief of Air Staff.
 - Defence Office.
 - Sir N. Brook.
 - Mr. C.G. Eastwood.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Mr. C.W. Baxter.
 - Mr. A.J. Kellar.
 - Private Secretary.
 - Sir H. Wilson Smith.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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316/46/11

95

75156/167/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

INDEXED

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 20th January, 1947. 22.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 134 Top Secret.

My immediately preceding telegram. Use of the armed forces. Following is text of directive. Begins.

DIRECTIVE TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

1. His Majesty's Government have decided that further efforts will be made to stop lawlessness and terrorism.
2. They have also decided that all possible steps will be taken at once to establish and maintain law and order in Palestine, using the police and military forces at your disposal as may be necessary.
3. There can of course be no question of taking reprisals which would merely bear hardly on innocent people. Apart from this, the efforts of police and troops should be designed to take the offensive against breakers of the law and to ensure that the initiative lies with the forces of the Crown.
4. Such action as you take to implement the policy outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 above will receive the full support of His Majesty's Government. Ends.

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 Mr. I. Thomas
 Mr. Martin
 Sir D. Harris
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. Mathieson
 Mr. Higham
 Mr. Bennett
 No.10 Downing Street
 Lord President
 Admiralty
 "
 War Office
 " "
 " " (M.O.4.)
 " " (M.I.3.)
 Air Ministry
 "
 Cabinet Offices
 " "
 " "
 Foreign Office
 " "
 M.I.5.
 Ministry of Defence
 " " "

RECEIVED IN C.B.

22 JAN 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- Private Secretary.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
- Lt. Col. Gore.
- Private Secretary.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Defence Office.
- Sir N. Brook.
- Mr. C.G. Eastwood.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. A.J. Kellar.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir H. Wilson Smith.

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1947

E

PALESTINE

E 318

10 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

E 318/46/31.

No.

40. Minute

Dated

W Beeley

Received
in Registry5 Jan 1948
10 Jan 1948Palestine, H M G. Policy.Transmits record of meeting between Saps
and H/c Palestine, embracing following
subjects: Terrorism in Palestine, Long Term
Policy, Partition, Jewish participation in
London discussions, also mentions activities
of the Mupli.

Last Paper.

316

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

K.B. 11/1

(Action
completed)

P.S.M. 12/1

(Index.)

2/6/48

Next Paper.

E 348

32003 F.O.P

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Mr. Baer 10/6/1

I think the note
might circulate before entry.
I am sending copies to the
C.O. and to Sir Norman Brooke.

Point 4. A paper on the
Mughli will be submitted
shortly.

V. Sealey 5/1

Sir Com. Sargent

Private Secretary

Services Liaison Dept.

Egyptian Dept.

Mr Howe
RVH
3/1

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E 318

10 JAN

Minutes.

Record of a Meeting between the
Secretary of State and the High
Commissioner for Palestine on Saturday
January, 4th.

Also present were :
The Colonial Secretary,
The Minister of State and
Mr. Crawley.

1. Terrorism in Palestine.

The High Commissioner said that there had been no terrorist action by Hagana or Palmach since the raid of June 29th. The only bodies now operative were the I.Z.L. and the Stern Gang, and their activities were for the most part confined to Tel Aviv and its two satellite towns, Ramat Gan and Petah Tiqva, and to Haifa and Jerusalem. They did not operate to any great extent in the rural areas. He therefore differed from the C.I.G.S. as to the measures which should be taken against terrorist activity in its present form. He did not think there was much that the military could do. What was necessary was to improve the police force (this was being done), to increase confidence between the police and the civilian population, and thus to induce the latter to provide more information. The only thing that would finally put an end to terrorism was a definitive political settlement.

In answer to questions by the Secretary of State, the High Commissioner said that there was no evidence of Soviet influence in the Jewish terrorist groups.

2. Long-term policy.

The Secretary of State outlined the suggestion that provincial autonomy should be put into effect as an interim arrangement designed to lead to partition within a reasonably short period. He would like to say, in introducing a system of provincial autonomy, that the provinces would have a right to ~~cession~~ after some such period as five years. It was important, that, even in the period of provincial autonomy, Arabs and Jews should be responsible for maintaining law and order in their respective areas.

The High Commissioner said he would have preferred proposals which did not involve a period of transition. Finality in his view was all important.

The Secretary of State explained the difficulty which would arise in the United Nations if H.M.G. put forward proposals for immediate partition. If however conclusion was reached that partition should be put into effect immediately, we must try to induce the

United States Government to make the

proposal/

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proposal in the first instance; they would then be committed to support us in the United Nations.

Two suggestions were then discussed for making partition more palatable to certain of the Arab states :

- (a) that the port of Aqaba should be ceded to Ibn Saud, and that Abdulla should be asked to relinquish some territory in South Trans Jordan to Ibn Saud in return for the agrandisment of his Kingdom by the incorporation in it of parts of Palestine ; and
- (b) the cession to Syria of the north-eastern corner of Palestine including the Huleh Basin, the Jews being compensated for the loss of Huleh by the incorporation in their area of parts of western Galilee.

3. Jewish participation in the London discussions.

The Colonial Secretary reported on his conversation with Mr. Ben ~~Goodier~~. There was virtually no prospect that the Jewish Agency would agree to participate in the forthcoming conference. But they had assured him that they were ready to enter unconditionally into discussions with H.M.G. before, during or after the conference.

The Secretary of State said that the essential thing was to open discussions with the Jews. It was of no consequence whether these discussions took place within the ~~frame-~~ team-work of the conference or on some other footing. He asked the Colonial Secretary to make sure that the Jewish Agency Delegation was available in London at the time of the conference.

4. The Mufti of Jerusalem

The High Commissioner raised the question of the present activities of the Mufti of Jerusalem.

The Secretary of State asked for a paper summarising the recent information on this subject, and undertook to consider the possibility of making further representations to the Egyptian Government.

H.B. Lee

5th January, 1947

RECEIVED IN O.B.

9 JAN 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E 349

1947

PALESTINE

10 JAN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 349/46/31.

Colonial
office

G.M. Beeley.

8 Jan 1947

10 Jan 1947

Discussion, Lof and Ben Gurion.

B.O. at No 26 of Jan 14.

Gives list of outstanding features of
discussion, mainly Jewish Congress would
not agree to attend Palestine Conference
unless H.M.G.'s present policy was changed
in favour of the Jews (re Immigration etc)

Last Paper.

(348)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J.M.S.

(Index.)

J.M.S.

Next Paper.

36 +

32003 F.O.P

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E 349
10 JAN

Colonial Office
8/ January
103

My dear Beeley,

I enclose the
telegram giving a summary
of Mr Ben Funder's talks on
2nd January.

Enthwart

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Entered
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FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 4th January, 1947. 18.45 hrs.

IMPORTANT
No. 26 Secret.

Following are outstanding features of my discussion with Ben Gurion on 2nd January.

1. He made it clear that in existing circumstances Congress would not agree to representation at the Palestine Conference, but they wanted reciprocal co-operation from H.M.G. A change in present conditions was a change either in practice (e.g. immigration) or in H.M.G.'s policy as regards a final solution.
2. His Committee however, was available for discussion or consultation with H.M.G. at any time - before, during or after the Palestine Conference and without conditions. The Basle resolution did not bar exploratory discussions at any time.
3. He was confident that American Zionists would follow any definite lead which Yishuv gave in regard to a solution. They wanted a solution which would accept that (a) every Jew who needed to go to the National Home could go, (b) Jews would be able to cultivate the Palestine soil not actually cultivated by the Arabs and (c) they should shape their own life as freely as any other free people.
4. He denounced terrorism and saw the grave consequences which flowed from it, though as to illegal immigration that was another matter. I made it clear that Government must take a stern line in respect to the continued lawlessness and disorders.

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COPY.

Colonial Office,
London, S.W.1.

4th January, 1947.

My dear Gurney,

INDEXED

The Secretary of State has sent you a telegram summarising the outstanding features of his discussion with Mr. Ben Gurion on 2nd January.

You may be interested also to glance at the enclosed longer record of this interview.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) J.M. Martin.

Sir Henry Gurney, C.M.G.

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E

E 364

106

1947

PALESTINE

10 JAN

Registry
Number

E364/46/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Lord Inverchapel
Washington

Dated

Received
in Registry164
Jan 9. 1947
- 10. 1947

HMG Policy towards Palestine.

Refers Washington tel 98(E261/46/31)
Following is text of Silver's speech of
January 6 as published by Jewish
Telegraphic Agency.

Last Paper.

349

References.

(Minutes.)

Rabbi Silver appears not to have
responded to the Ambassador's suggestion
that he should disavow the activities of
American Jews in support of terrorism.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

N. American Dps.

H. B. A. Rung

One might suspect that Rabbi
Silver is keeping a way open for
himself to endorse rebellion in Palestine
if all else fails. This might partly
explain his reluctance to denounce
the supporters of terrorism in the U.S.A.,
but I should guess that his main
reason is that he fears the effect on
the U.S. public of the open breach
such action would provoke.

(signed) F. B. A. Rung

(Action
completed.)

G. B. M. 16/1

(Index.)

R. B. A. Rung
21/6/47

Next Paper.

E373

32003 F.O.P.

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En Clair

CABINET DISTRIBUTION
FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 364

10 JAN

Lord Inverchapel. D. 7.38. p.m. January 9th, 1947.
No. 164.
January 9th, 1947. R. 1.45. a.m. January 10th, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem.

6 6 6 6 6

LIGHT.

My telegram No. 98 paragraph 2 not repeated to
Jerusalem.

The following is substance of Silver's speech
of January 6th as published by Jewish Telegraph Agency.

2. He appealed "to all patriotic Jews in
Palestine regardless of their affiliation to refrain
from those acts of desperation which are endangering
our political situation both in Palestine and else-
where". Calling for a truce he said that an earnest
and determined effort perhaps the final one must be
made in the next few weeks or months to discover whether
a just and peaceful solution can be found and every
opportunity must be given to ensure the success of such
an effort. He appealed to Palestine Jews to submit
to national discipline and not to do anything which
might endanger the Zionist political position.
"The Basle Congress resolved to resist unceasingly
and with the utmost vigour the violation of the rights
of the Jewish people" However it condemned

/murder

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murder and the shedding of innocent blood and he called upon members of dissident organisations to desist and to submit to national discipline. He is also reported to have said that should the new executive fail in its attempt to come to a peaceful and just solution in the next few months "you will find all Jews united to resist to the bitter end".

3. Silver is also reported to have appealed on January 8th against the introduction of further military measures in Palestine. He is quoted as saying "no just and sound solution to the Palestine problem can be achieved by taking the path of reprisal. Modern public opinion Jewish and Christian alike will not condone military oppression in the Holy Land and the subjection of the entire population to the tyranny of martial law".

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E 410 109

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 410/46/31

Embassy
Washington

8/21-1/47

4 Jan 1947
13 Jan 1947

H.M. & Palestine Policy.

Transmit copy of letter from Embassy
to Congressman RUFFETT re letter
from Congressman Ruffett in which he asked
for text of Prime Minister's reply to President
Truman's message regarding Palestine of
Oct 14. Give Lord Gortalski negative
reply.

Last Paper.

173

(Minutes.)

i. Ruffett can't find.

45.13/

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

GEM/206

(Index)

2/6/48

Next Paper.

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*Forwarded with the Compliments
of the British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.*

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London.S.W.1.

4th January 1947.

E 410
15 JAN

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As I understand it, the President's desire at that time was to make a public statement of policy and to inform Mr. Attlee beforehand. No question arose of the Prime Minister's making a public statement of the views of His Majesty's Government in reply and the remarks which he addressed to the President were of an entirely confidential nature. I am sorry therefore to be unable to comply with your request.

Yours sincerely,

INVERCHAPEL

The Honorable Howard Buffett, M.C.,
United States House
of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

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